

LIBRARIES MEET GRANT DEADLINES

This spring, Vermont public librarians and trustees coped with what were described as “welcome but overwhelming riches,” as they developed grant applications for three major initiatives. Despite efforts to spread deadlines out, March and April passed in a haze of grant writing for most librarians.

The Gates Library Foundation offered more than 60 public libraries grants for powerful new public access computers, a wide range of software, 24-hour technical support, and intensive training. Many of the rest of the public libraries in the state were eligible for partial grants from Gates to purchase the computers at cost and to receive the software, training, and technical support free. Most public libraries took advantage of the program, for which the deadline was March 23. The Department of Libraries also applied for a grant from Gates for a technology training lab to be located at the Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. The lab is to be available for public access and training when it is not in use for local library staff training.

Mobile Library Literacy Project grants were offered by the Department of Libraries to public and school libraries and school districts through a National Leadership Grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The April 15 deadline offered libraries and collaborators opportunities to put together comprehensive programs of outreach to community members unable due to geography, age, disability, or other circumstances to use local public libraries. Grant awards are to be announced in May.

Finally, the deadline for the Vermont Public Library Incentive Grant funded by the Vermont-based Freeman Foundation to the Vermont Public Library Foundation, is any time between March 15 and June 15. Several public libraries got their applications in early. Others are still deliberating the best use of this exceptional two year opportunity which will match up to one-half of a public library's total operating income for 1998-99, no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$250,000, in both 2001 and 2002. Some libraries even held community meetings to discuss options and choose the best means for using the funds.

Various meetings this spring have offered trustees and librarians opportunities to discuss ways to use the “Freeman Grants” to expand Vermonters’ use of public libraries. Some ideas have included collection development in particular areas, increased staffing and/or hours open, special programming and collections for hard-to-reach populations, outreach services, technology enhancement, building renovations, and accessibility projects. During 2003, the grant program will match local libraries’ operating budget increases, offering still more opportunities to provide enhanced services to their communities. More comprehensive lists of projects will be published in future issues of News as awards are announced.

STATE SIGNS NEW JOBBER CONTRACTS

The Department of Libraries recently entered into several contracts with book wholesalers (jobbers). Vermont public and other libraries may use the state's contracts with these vendors, none of which charge for shipping for regular orders. Free shipping does not apply for other shipping methods such as express shipments. To receive the state contract discounts, librarians **MUST** include the state contract number when placing orders.

A complete list of contract terms is available at the Department's website: <http://dol.state.vt.us/www/html/jobbers.html>. Libraries should shop around to receive up to 44.8% discounts on trade books, 28.5% on library bindings, 38% on paperbacks, and other discounts for various media. Following is an abbreviated list of jobbers and contact numbers:

- **Avanti Enterprises, Inc.**, 9515 Falling Water Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60521- 0720; contract no. 0018518
- **Baker & Taylor, Co.**, 251 Mt. Olive Church Rd., Commerce, GA 30599-9988. For video, music cassettes, and music CDs: Baker & Taylor, Co., Attn: Library Service, 100 Business Center Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205; contract no. 0018494
- **Blackwell's Book Services**, 6024 SW Jean Rd., Lake Oswego, OR 97035; contract no. 0018505
- **Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.**, 1800 W. Morton, Jacksonville, IL 62650- 2697; contract no. 0018507
- **Brodart, Inc.**, 500 Arch St., Williamsport, PA 17705; contract no. 0018499
- **BWI (Book Wholesalers, Inc.)**, 1847 Mercer Road, Lexington, KY 40511; contract no. 0018503
- **Follett Corp.**, DBA Follett Library Resources, 1340 Ridgeview Drive, McHenry, IL 60050; contract no. 0018496
- **Perma-Bound Books**, 617 E. Vardalia Rd., Jacksonville, IL 62650; contract no. 0018504
- **Yankee Book Peddler, Inc.**, 999 Maple St., Contoocook, NH 03229; contract no. 0018506

For more information about the jobber contract and its various terms, contact Lorraine Lanius, Head of the Department's Technical Services Unit, at 828-3261. Lanius would also like to hear from libraries about their experiences with any of these jobbers.

TEN LIBRARIANS TO RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

At the annual meeting of the Vermont Certification Board in February, it was voted to award certificates of public librarianship to the following candidates:

Lee Aura Bonamico, Aldrich Public Library, Barre
Nancy Custer Carroll, New Haven Community Library
Ruth Drachman, Tinmouth Library
Kathy Dulac, Milton Public Library
Linda Lewis, Brownell Library, Essex Junction
Margaret Jo Murray, Aldrich Library, East Barre Branch
Elaine O'Hara, Barnet Public Library
Joanne Pariseau, Jones Memorial Library, Orleans
Natacha Pouech, Carpenter-Carse Library, Hinesburg
Kathy Tracy, Norman Williams Library, Woodstock

These librarians, who have each completed a minimum of 150 credit hours of workshops, will receive their certificates at the Vermont Library Conference on May 23 in Killington.

Members of the certification board are Sybil Brigham McShane, State Librarian; Deborah Krisko, trustee, Warren Public Library; Kathy Naftaly, President, Vermont Library Association; Sue Barden, Director, Carpenter-Carse Library, Hinesburg, and Grace Greene, Continuing Education Coordinator, Chair.

NEW WEB-BASED CATALOG DEBUTS

If by chance you have followed the links on the Department of Libraries homepage (<http://dol.state.vt.us>) to the Web-based catalog, you've noticed some changes, and not just to the URL (which is now <http://web2.dol.state.vt.us>). Not only does this new catalog (Web2) have a different "look and feel" but it also has some new capabilities that we are very pleased to be able to offer to our users.

Web2 is a major step in the changes the Department is making that will replace the current Vermont Automated Libraries System (VALS) access through telnet. Currently you may continue to do VALS searching and requesting as you have done with the VALS menu system, but you should anticipate that this system will be eliminated in the near future in favor of web and other Internet-based systems.

Help documentation is available from links on all pages of the catalog (upper left-hand corner of all pages and bottom of most pages) and should assist you in all aspects of using Web2. Regional librarians are prepared to assist you in learning to use Web2 and will be arranging mini-workshops to provide training for using Web2.

Step-by-step, here are the major changes and new capabilities you will find when you point your web browser to the Web2 URL:

1. The Welcome screen will ask you to choose the DOL location whose holdings will be highlighted in the search results. Whatever choice you make here will only change the appearance of your search results. It will not limit your searching to items held at the location that you choose.
2. The process of searching the new web-based catalog works much the same as did the previous version except that instead of choosing the type of search before entering search terms, you now enter the search terms and then choose the type of search you wish to perform. You should note that the steps for filling out the search forms are numbered and you should follow these steps in sequence in order to complete your search.
3. You will be able to search multiple library catalogs and databases simultaneously by clicking on the "Multiple Library Search" link in the banner at the top of the initial DOLCAT search page. You can choose to search simultaneously DOLCAT, PUBCAT, K12CAT, the catalogs of many VALS partner libraries, and other databases. The Multiple Library Search currently includes all VALS libraries with whom we have been able to work out certain technical requirements and we will be adding others as soon as the details of these requirements can be arranged.
4. You will be able to make requests for items found in searching Web2 by viewing the full record of the item to be requested and clicking on the Request Title via ILL or Request Title link that appears just above the title of the item in the full record display. This capability is a web-based equivalent of the LIB command used while searching from the VALS login (telnet) screen. This request method requires that you enter a "Library Card Number" and PIN, and if you need assistance in finding out your library card number and/or PIN, you may call your regional librarian. As with the LIB command, a copy of your request will be sent to your VALS email and you will need to check your email to see if your request was submitted successfully. Detailed instructions for making requests can be found in the Help documentation. If you

click on the Help link at the top of the Interlibrary Loan Request page, you will be taken directly to these instructions.

5. Although the “My Account” feature of the catalog may be familiar to those who had used the previous version of DOL’s web-based catalog, it may be new to some of you. In Web2 the link to “My Account” is found in the banner at the top of most pages of the catalog. On this page (after entering a valid library card number and PIN) you may view the list of items that you have checked out, renew items that are not overdue and that have not been renewed previously, view pending requests that have been made using the “R” or “RB” command through your VALS (Telnet) login, and view a record of current fines and fees charged against your account.

We hope that you will find the improvements to DOL’s web-based catalog to be useful. If you have any questions about using the new catalog, please contact your regional librarian or Sheila Kearns (phone: 828-3261; VALS mail: skearns; Internet email: sheila.kearns@dol.state.vt.us).

STATEWIDE DATABASE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETS

State Librarian Sybil McShane has assembled an exploratory committee to examine opportunities for statewide licensing for database access. The committee, which met for the first time on March 21, 2001, includes representatives from public, school, and academic libraries and the Department of Libraries. The committee’s goal is to determine the scope and type of database access that might be made available under a statewide contract and to work from there to identify the best and most equitable means of implementing statewide access to database services

Discussion at the initial meeting focused on past efforts to obtain and implement statewide contracts for database licensing and on recent successful efforts by states such as Connecticut and Pennsylvania to establish such contracts. The outcome of the meeting was that the group will meet again to try to formulate a vehicle such as a Request for Proposals (RFP) that will seek vendors’ input on the type and cost of database access they would be able to supply on a statewide basis. The Department of Libraries would take the lead in issuing an RFP and evaluations of any proposals received would be conducted by members of the committee and/or other representatives of the various segments of the library community in Vermont.

Current members of the committee are: David Clark, Ilsley Library, Middlebury; Kathy Naftaly, Rutland Free Library; Jane Bartlett, Vermont Technical College/Community College of Vermont; Jeanne Simmons, Middlebury College; Peter Spitzform, University of Vermont; Melissa Malcolm, Mt Abraham UHS; Bristol; Rebecca Brown, Peoples Academy, Morrisville; Leda Schubert, Dept. of Education; and Sheila Kearns, Dept. of Libraries.

125 LIBRARIES MEET STANDARDS

At its February 20, 2001, meeting the Vermont Board of Libraries recognized the Jeudevine Memorial Library in Hardwick for meeting standards for the first time in many years. This year, a record number – 125 – of public libraries meet either the 1986 or 1998 version of minimum standards, with 77 meeting the “new” version. The following towns have libraries meeting standards this year (*’s denote those that meet the 1998 version):

Alburg*
Arlington*
Bakersfield*

Barnet*
Barre and East Barre branch
Barton*

Barton/Orleans
Bennington
Bradford

Brandon*	Hyde Park*	Shelburne*
Brattleboro*	Jericho/Underhill* and	Shrewsbury
Brighton/Island Pond	Jericho Town	South Burlington*
Bristol*	Killington*	South Hero*
Burlington*	Lincoln	South Londonderry*
Cabot*	Lyndonville*	South Royalton*
Canaan*	Marshfield*	Springfield*
Castleton	Middlebury*	St. Albans
Cavendish	Middletown Springs	St. Johnsbury
Charlotte	Milton	Stamford*
Chelsea	Montpelier	Stowe*
Chester*	Morristown*	Strafford*
Colchester*	New Haven	Swanton
Craftsbury*	Newbury (Tenney)	Thetford* and Post Mills*
Danville	Newbury/Wells River*	Townshend*
Derby	Newport	Tunbridge
Derby Line	North Bennington*	Vergennes
Dorset*	North Hero*	Vernon*
Dover*	North Troy*	Waitsfield*
Enosburg*	Northfield*	Wallingford*
Essex	Norwich*	Wardsboro*
Essex Junction*	Pawlet*	Warren*
Fair Haven*	Peacham	Washington
Fairfax*	Pittsford*	Waterbury and Waterbury
Fairfield*	Plainfield*	Center
Fairlee	Pomfret*	Weathersfield (Ascutney)
Franklin*	Poultney	West Rutland
Georgia*	Proctor*	Westford*
Grafton*	Putney*	Whitingham
Grand Isle	Quechee* and Wilder branch	Williamstown*
Greensboro*	Randolph*	Williston
Groton	Reading	Wilmington
Guilford	Readsboro*	Windsor*
Hardwick	Richford*	Winooski
Hartford	Richmond*	Wolcott
Hartland	Rochester*	Woodbury
Highgate	Rockingham/Bellows Falls*	Woodstock
Hinesburg*	Rutland*	

2001 STATISTICAL ROUNDUP

Vermont public library use rose slightly in most areas, as did support, in the fiscal year completed prior to November 1, 2000. Program attendance rose dramatically, perhaps due to a more conscientious effort to keep those statistics. Public libraries also worked hard to purchase more audio-visual materials and to deliver materials to those unable to come to them for service. More Vermonters volunteered to help their public libraries and were invaluable to their being able to extend services.

These facts and more are displayed in the “2001 Biennial Report Supplement” published by the Department of Libraries in late February, 2001. This annual publication includes most of the statistics submitted by the state’s 197 public libraries and available from Marianne Kotch, Director of Public Library Support Services (828-2320, marianne.kotch@dol.state.vt.us). Data is also available in PDF format and for downloading in Excel format at the Department of Libraries website <http://dol.state.vt.us>. Here are some of the highlights of the 1999-2000 year:

1999-00 Service Statistics

- Total book/serial volumes 2,599,05 (4.62 per capita)
- Total public library attendance 2,544,211 (4.52 per capita)
 - Library with highest total number of visits – Burlington (230,880)
 - Library with highest total number of visits per capita – Killington (29.81)
- Total reference transactions 331,446 (0.59 per capita)
- Total circulation 3,804,683 (6.76 per capita)
 - Library with highest total circulation – Burlington (270,479)
 - Library with highest circulation per capita – Chittenden (36.30)
- Total program attendance 182,646 at 11,413 programs for adults and children
- Total volunteer hours in a typical week 3,033
- Total deliveries to:
 - individual homes 4,583
 - day care providers 3,575
 - others (senior meal sites, pools, etc.) 3,502
- Total operating income \$12,153,152 (\$21.59 per capita)
 - Local government appropriations 8,391,361 (\$14.90 per capita)
 - Library with highest per capita tax support – Killington (\$161.75)
- Total operating expenses \$11,522,075 (\$20.47 per capita)
 - Total staff expenditures 7,293,963 (\$12.96 per capita)
 - Total collection expenditures 1,836,515 (\$3.26 per capita)

DEPARTMENT BROADENS FIRSTSEARCH ACCESS

The Department of Libraries recently broadened school and public library access to OCLC FirstSearch, an online bibliographic database. Libraries using GOVnet/K12net dial-up or having a dedicated to GOVnet/K12net will now be able to access FirstSearch without having to enter an authorization number and password. This will allow those libraries to offer FirstSearch to the public, just as they can offer Infotrac access, via their dial-up or dedicated connections to GOVnet/K12net.

The Department's license still limits use to four simultaneous users, and once this limit is reached, users may be turned away until another user session becomes available. Librarians may simply enter the FirstSearch URL into their browsers' 'location' boxes and create bookmarks to the location. This method of access is for in-library use only. For more information and for the URL, contact Sheila Kearns, Information Technology Manager, 828-3261 or via email sheila.kearns@dol.state.vt.us.

FCC ISSUES E-RATE REGULATIONS

The Federal Communications Commission has issued its regulations relating to Telecommunications Discounts ("the e-rate") and the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA – see News, January, 2001) which may be reviewed at: http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Orders/2001/fcc01120.doc. The FCC will require certification in Year 4 (the year for which most schools and libraries have already filed), but the certification will be either/or:

For this funding year, schools and libraries must certify by October 28, 2001 that they have the policies and technology measures in place, or that they are undertaking such actions, including any necessary procurement procedures, to put them in place for the following funding year. Because no school or library may receive services at discount rates during any time period in which it is out of compliance with its certification, as of the time that a school or library begins receiving services in Funding Year 4, it must EITHER have the policies and technology measure in place, OR be undertaking necessary actions to put them in place for the next year.

Rather than take hasty action to purchase and implement filters without adequate evaluation, libraries should consider certifying that they "are undertaking such actions, including any necessary procurement procedures, to put them in place for the following funding year" (i.e. Year 5). State Librarian Sybil Brigham McShane notes that "this will give us all time to work as a group to perform the necessary evaluation of the products, budgeting, and procurement (including a statewide contract if desirable). At the same time, legal challenges to the CIPA will also move forward and if those are successful in whole or in part, the requirements may change--another reason not to leap too soon."

The American Library Association's comments on the FCC regulations are available at: <http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon/#April>. Also, continue to review <http://www.ala.org/cipa/> and <http://www.ala.org/washoff/alawon/alwn1026.html> which contains discussion and links to testimony about CIPA before Congress which took place on April 4th.

CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES TAKES OFF

First Lady Laura Bush helped kick off the American Library Association's *Campaign for America's Libraries* during National Library Week at the beginning of April. ALA's national effort, also known as the "@your library" campaign, is designed to promote the value of libraries and librarians in the 21st century. ALA's website (<http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary>) contains artwork, program ideas, and other useful materials for libraries to tie in with the five year theme. The campaign also has a toll-free number, 1-866-4LIBRARY, which may be called.

Libraries around the country are encouraged to develop their own brands ending with the "@your library" tag line. For National Library Week 2001, the Vermont Library Association (VLA) chose "Open Doors @ your library" as its theme for a radio public service announcement featuring Secretary of State Deborah Markowitz, coffee mugs for state legislators, a book cart at the Vermont State House, and posters distributed to libraries free of charge. VLA also sponsored legislative breakfasts and gatherings statewide on April 2 to highlight the various services and programs libraries provide. VLA Government Relations Chair Pat Hazlehurst said that her committee will continue to develop the "@your library" theme to help make Vermonters aware of libraries' value to all. For more information, contact Hazlehurst at Lyndonville's Cobleigh Public Library, 626-5475.

TRUSTEES DISCUSS ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

This spring Town Officers Educational Conferences again offered a day's worth of learning and discussion just for public library trustees in five locations around the state. Many trustees and librarians contributed time and ideas to make the days successful and discussion meaningful. Morning topics covered basic roles and responsibilities of trustees and, more specifically, that of hiring and keeping a good librarian.

Speakers at the session at Castleton State College offered the following “pearls” based their collective experiences:

- Be a visionary, a catalyst for change
- Hire a librarian to implement your vision
- Encourage alliances with community organizations (in one town, this includes a pub!)
- View your library as the “Living Room of the Community”
- See that your library is relevant to people at every age
- Ask your librarian, “what is the most important thing we can do to help you?”
- Express your appreciation to your librarian for jobs well done – give a *sense of support*

Afternoon sessions focussed on the Children’s Internet Protection Act and its implications for policymaking with regard to public access computer use. Gail Weymouth, chair of the Vermont Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Committee, went over the act passed last fall, lawsuits pending against it, and her own experiences with filtered access to the internet. She urged trustees to develop acceptable use policies for internet access but not to take definite action to purchase filters until the outcome of the lawsuits is known.

The final sessions of each day were devoted to sharing ideas of how libraries are planning to spend their “Freeman” grants (see article elsewhere in this issue). Members of the board of the Vermont Public Library Foundation were on hand to lead those brainstorming sessions.

The trustees workshops at the Vermont Institute for Government’s annual Town Officers Educational Conferences are planned by members of the Vermont Library Trustees Association Steering Committee and Marianne Kotch of the Department of Libraries. This group will begin planning a fall statewide conference for trustees soon. If you would like to participate in the planning or have ideas for topics, please contact Kotch at 828-2320.

AWARDS COME TO DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

Spring saw several kudos come to the Department of Libraries. Paul Donovan, Law Librarian, was one of 25 individuals to receive a 2001 Service Award from the Vermont Bar Association. The Bar honored individuals from all over the state for contributions to the legal system in Vermont and to the work of the Bar. Also among the winners at the awards dinner at the Radisson in Burlington March 8th were: Former Chief Justice Frederick Allen, historian and attorney Paul Gillies, and Reporter of Decisions Larry Abbott.

In addition, the Department of Libraries was one of 40 states to receive the 2000 Francis Keppel Award from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Services. The Award is presented each year to the Chief Officers and Data Coordinators of state library agencies which submit prompt, complete, and high-quality public library data to the Federal-State Cooperative System. Because this was the seventh year Vermont has won the award, State Librarian Sybil Brigham McShane and Director of Public Library Support Services Marianne Kotch received brass plates to affix to their previously awarded working abacuses.

WHY GUESSTIMATES DON’T WORK

The Department of Libraries’ soon-to-be published Biennial Report and its annual Supplement both include statistics of Vermont libraries. These data are heavily used by librarians and trustees around the state to see how their libraries stack up, to offer arguments for budget increases, and to see how broadly their libraries are serving their communities. Most Vermont public

librarians are very diligent about collecting and reporting the statistics compiled annually. But, because some librarians “guesstimate” more than others, I recommend that the statistics be used carefully.

How do I know people guesstimate? Often, I notice a lot of 0's reported on the annual Public Library Report form. Examples include: total circulation 5,000; amount spent on salaries \$13,000. Whenever anyone does that over and over on a form, I have to conclude that they estimated one or more of the amount(s). Some people are good guessers; some are not. There is no way I can know, just by looking at the form, what methods were used to develop figures that I think may be guesses.

When I encounter what I suspect might be guessing, I look a little closer, usually comparing one year's numbers to the previous year's. For example, one library reported sending out one book on interlibrary loan to other libraries in 1998 and then 100 in 1999, and it reported receiving 100 books on ILL from other libraries in 1998 and 280 in 1999. That's quite a jump in activity. It may well be that those are real numbers or close to them, but the differences were significant enough to make me wonder, particularly when I looked further and find that every number reported on the form ending in one, two, or three zeros!

A recommendation: don't estimate whenever possible. Try to report real numbers whenever you have them. Rounding to the nearest dollar is fine; even the IRS allows that. But you may find you need real numbers (not rounded to the nearest hundred or thousand) for some important statistics, such as amount paid for salaries and books, income from other sources, total circulation, number of ILLs received. The Department of Libraries needs a real number for the latter, not a guess, by the way, in order to justify our expense to provide such services. Imprecision may come back to haunt you, particularly when it comes to fiscal matters.

Also, the Department of Libraries would be irresponsible if it compiled and reported numbers we think are guesses. The statistical report we publish is used heavily and relied on by librarians and trustees around the state. We really don't want to suggest that anyone use questionable data for comparison because we can't be certain how close to real the numbers really are.

In addition, we report Vermont library data to the National Center for Education Statistics to be added to a national database, used by researchers to track trends and suggest legislation and funding. Librarians and trustees can find this data on the internet so that they can compare their library performance and support with peers nationwide. Check out this website: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/publicpeer/index.asp>. I generally do not report numbers with questionable accuracy to NCES, making some Vermont data incomplete in the eyes of federal adjudicators.

--Marianne Kotch
Director, Public Library Support Services

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE...

by Marjorie D. Zunder
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828-3261

Replies to ILL requests, renewal requests

Interlibrary loan is an ongoing conversation. Please hold up your library's end. Whenever you receive an ILL request, you must always respond. Give the title of the requested item in your message and your response, e.g. “Sending Gone with the Wind” or “Not sending Gone with the Wind.” If you are not sending the requested material, please give a reason, such as “Lost” or “In circulation until May 12.”

The same is true for renewal requests. You must always respond, either granting the renewal or denying the request. Include the title in your message, e.g. “Gone with the Wind now due May 14, 2001” or “Gone with the Wind cannot be renewed.” To even more helpful, you can include the whole request message in your response message by using the VALS email command, “forward/edit.”

If you have any questions about responding to interlibrary loan requests or anything else about interlibrary loan, please contact me at 802-828-3261 or mzunder@dol.state.vt.us

Grants web page

There is a new web page for grants resources in the Department of Libraries web site. It is listed near the link for the Burlington Free Press and Rutland Herald Index under "Government and Library Information." The new page describes the Department's grants collection resources, but also includes links to other sources of grant information on the web.

Links to the Foundation Center website are particularly helpful. The Department's grants collection is sponsored by the Foundation Center, a national organization that supports grants resources in libraries in all fifty states. The Foundation Center provides information for grant seekers and for grantmakers. Vermonters who live closer to Concord, NH, Springfield, MA or Albany, NY than to Montpelier may find the Foundation Center libraries in these other cities convenient.

Everyone is welcome to use the grant resources at the law library located in the Department of Libraries central offices in Montpelier. Print sources are diverse and current. The electronic database provided by the Foundation Center is one of the few that allows subject and keyword searching by grantmakers' fields of interest.

****AVAILABLE****

Resources...

...e-laws advisor, offering free employment law assistance for workers and small businesses at <http://www.dol.gov/elaws>. Continuously updated.

...2001 Supplement to the Biennial Report of the Vermont Department of Libraries, containing statistics of local public libraries for the fiscal year ending prior to November 1, 2000. Charts are arranged by population served. A Microsoft Excel spreadsheet file with all of the data is available for downloading at <http://dol.state.vt.us>.

...Book repair tips covering the most common school and public library problems at the Kapco (Kent Adhesive Products Co.) website <http://www.kapcolibrary.com>.

Continuing Education...

...Spring workshops in nonprofit management and leadership from TAP-VT, a program of the Vermont Community Foundation (PO Box 30, Middlebury 05753, 388-3355, <http://www.vermontcf.org>). Grant seeking, time management, financial management, board structure, and major donor solicitation are all on worth exploring. "Advanced grantwriting" is offered online!

...NELINET, Inc., will be offering a number of excellent workshops for librarians this spring. Full details can be found at the organization's website: <http://www.nelinet.net/calendar/train.htm>. The offerings are diverse and cover cataloging, website design, electronic reference services, and computing, e.g. "Understanding the MARC Record" (April 10), "Creating a Home Page" (May 9), "Intermediate Book Repair" held in conjunction with the Northeast Documents Conservation Center (April 27), "Troubleshooting the Windows 95/98 Operating System" (May 17), and "Medical and Scientific Internet Resources" (April 11).

COMING EVENTS

Wed., May 2, 9:30 am – Basic Reference workshop, continuing through Tues., May 8, Rockingham Free Public Library, Bellows Falls. Contact: Grace W. Greene, 828-3261.

Wed., May 2, 9:00 am – Family Literacy Conference, Stoweflake Resort, Stowe. Registration fee. Contact: Wendy Ross, 828-5148.

Wed., May 9, 9:30 am – Basic Reference workshop, continuing through Tues., May 15, Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, Williston. Contact: Grace W. Greene, 828-3261.

Wed., May 16, 9:00 am – Chittenden County Librarians meeting, Milton Public Library. Contact: Fran Ferro, 893-4644.

Thurs., May 17, 9:30 am – Vermont Library Assn. board meeting, Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. Contact: Kathy Naftaly, 773-1860.

Wed. & Thurs., May 23 & 24 – Vermont Library Assn./Vermont Educational Media Assn. annual conference, Killington Resort. Contact: Susan Englese, 879-3076, vlcsusan@aol.com.

Wed., May 30 – State holiday. Department of Libraries Central offices and regional libraries closed.

Tues., June 5, 9:30 am – Legal Reference workshop, Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. Contact: Grace W. Greene, 828-3261.

Thurs., June 7 – “Before Your Computer Arrives” workshops sponsored by Gates Library Foundation. Repeats Fri., June 8; Mon., June 11; Tues., June 12; Wed., June 13. Places and times TBA. Contact: Sheila Kearns, 828-3261.

Fri., June 8, 9:30 am – Understanding MARC workshop, Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. Contact: Grace W. Greene, 828-3261.

Fri., June 15, 9:30 am – Public Library Directors’ quarterly forum, Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. Topics for discussion: filtering, time management. Contact: Marianne Kotch, 828-2320.

Fri., June 15 – final deadline for Vermont Public Library Incentive (“Freeman”) Grants. Contact: Sybil Brigham McShane, 828-3265.

Tues., June 19, 10:30 am – Vermont Board of Libraries meeting, Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. Contact: Sybil Brigham McShane, 828-3265.

Wed., July 4 – State holiday. Department of Libraries Central offices and regional libraries closed.

Mon., July 9- Fri. July 13, 9:30 am – Basic Public Library Administration workshop, Midstate Regional Library, Berlin. Contact: Grace W. Greene, 828-3261.

YOUTH SERVICES NEWS

by Grace W. Greene, Children’s Services Consultant

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828-3261

Camel’s Hump Radio...

Camel’s Hump Radio, Vermont Public Radio’s weekly storytelling series for families with children ages 7-12, will soon begin its second season with thirteen new shows and a new time slot. The programs will be aired on Sundays at 7:00 p.m., beginning on June 17, and will then air weekly Sundays at 7:00.

This season debuts with *HATCHET* by Gary Paulsen read by contractor/storyteller/VPR commentator Willem Lange. Other stories featured this season include: *THE GIRL WHO DREAMED ONLY GEESE* read by its author, Howard Norman; *CHARLOTTE’S WEB* by E.B. White read by poet Angela Patton; *LYDDIE*, a powerful story of a Vermont girl from the early 1800’s, read by its author Katherine Paterson; *ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL* by James Herriot and read by large animal veterinarian Joe Klopfenstein; *TREASURE ISLAND* by Robert Louis Stevenson, read by Horace Beck; and *ALICE IN WONDERLAND* by Lewis Carroll, read by host Philip Baruth.

Conceived by Kate Robinson Schubart, each program is hosted by Philip Baruth and features music and information related to the chosen book, as well as an enticing excerpt. Listeners are urged to get the book to complete the reading experience. This is a great way to encourage read alouds! Buy extra copies of the books in paperback, put them on display, and urge your patrons to read them aloud. Or, use them as books for a book discussion group. There is also a Camel’s Hump website which lists related titles, puzzles and recipes available at www.vpr.net.

Update on Born to Read...

Thank you to the 67 people who returned their Born to Read Board Book Giveaway surveys. The results across the state were very mixed, ranging from 11 libraries that had not even given out one book, to 12 that had run out, and needed more copies. The two biggest factors that determined the success rate of libraries were: how many doctors in the library’s service area were participating, and how aggressively the librarians marketed the project.

Many of you have reported successes and stories as a result of the Born to Read program. Sample comments are: “Most people I asked had heard about it, and people loved the diaper poster.” (Fairlee); “Gave one to our UPS driver because he was never at home when his own public library was open, and he was thrilled.” (Fairfax); “Four babies signed up for my birth-2 program because of Born to Read.” (Barre); and the wisest of all, from Lincoln “This is a great program! Hang in--it takes a bit of time to educate parents and doctors.”

Please remember that this is now an ongoing program. The first phase will finish as all babies born in 2000 reach their 6 month birthday, but babies born in 2001 will continue to get materials from their doctors, and books from their public libraries. Beginning in July 2001, Born to Read will be administered by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and they will be responsible for contacting the physicians. In this second phase, each family will receive, at the 6 month visit, 2 books, the Born to Read video, the Born to Read insert, and the coupon to take to the local public library. DOL will continue to supply you with copies of MAX'S BATH, so just call or email when you need more.

Therefore, it is NOT TOO LATE to contact your local physicians to make sure they know about the program, and to talk it up in all the ways you can. Do you mention it at storytimes? To teachers? Is it on your website? Do you have a display in the library? Do you ask parents of babies when they come in if they know about it? Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Wild About Reading...

Summer planning is off to a great start with the two workshops we hosted in March on "Wild About Reading." All public libraries should have their manuals and accompanying materials, now, so planning can begin in earnest. Be sure to send in your order form for summer materials by the deadline, April 27, to ensure delivery on time.

This year we were able to produce the materials in full color for the first time, because of the generosity of three businesses: KeyBank and National Life which donated money, and the Chittenden Bank which donated printing. Please mention these businesses in your PR so they get proper credit.

The biggest thanks go to Jim Arnosky, naturalist and illustrator extraordinaire, who created the beautiful Vermont woods and animal pictures that have been reproduced on your materials. Jim has also donated several programs to communities around the state, so watch for one near you.

CBEC Reference Collection...

One of the most useful resources in the state for people who work with children in libraries, is the reference collection housed in the Children's Book Exhibit Center (CBEC). Looking for program ideas? Need some help on how to teach children about the Internet? Want to improve your storytimes? Need some information on children's book authors and illustrators? Don't know what young adults like to read? Need some good bibliographies on a particular topic like fantasy or the environment? We have books on all these topics, and many more. You can always request a specific title on interlibrary loan by going through DOL_ILL (not directly from the CBEC), or you are welcome to put in an ILL subject request, such as: "books on setting up storytimes for toddlers," or "a book on writing policies for unattended children." We receive all the Libraries Unlimited, Neal Schuman and ALA publications on children's services, and buy many more. Come visit, if you can, and, if you can't, remember that you can borrow all of our reference books.

News is published four times each year by the Vermont Department of Libraries and is distributed to all Vermont libraries, trustee chairs, state legislators, and other who care about Vermont libraries. News is available upon request in Braille, in large print, or on disk. Call 828-3261. NEWS is a federal-state program under the Library Services and Technology Act.

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